

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1-11 as follows. All claims in the application are being reproduced below in accordance with current U.S. Patent and Trademark Office requirements.

---

11/2/84  
A1

1. (Currently Amended) A sheet folding apparatus for folding ~~the a~~ sheet by nipping and conveying a the sheet by a pair of folding rollers ~~and~~, wherein at least one of the pair of folding rollers has a single large-diameter portion and small-diameter portions at both sides of the large-diameter portion, and the large-diameter portion is provided within a convey range in a sheet width direction of a minimum size sheet foldable in the sheet folding apparatus portion along an axis thereof.

2. (Currently Amended) A sheet folding apparatus according to claim 1, wherein ~~a the single~~ large-diameter portion ~~for nipping and conveying the sheet~~ is provided at a sheet convey center portion of the roller.

3. (Currently Amended) A sheet folding apparatus according to claim 2, wherein ~~the large-diameter portion is provided at the sheet convey center portion such that a~~ width of the single large-diameter portion in the axis direction, ~~which is provided at the sheet convey center portion of the folding roller~~ is substantially  $\frac{1}{2}$  of a minimum width of a sheet size foldable in the sheet folding apparatus.

cont  
AI

4. (Currently Amended) A sheet folding apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the single large-diameter portion of the roller is provided outside a width positioned outside a movable range of a maximum-size sheet foldable in the foldable apparatus.

5. (Currently Amended) A sheet folding apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a predetermined gap is formed <sup>one of said</sup> at a small diameter portion<sup>s</sup> between the rollers at a convey nip between the pair of folding rollers.

6. (Currently Amended) A sheet folding apparatus according to claim 4, wherein a predetermined gap is formed at the small diameter portion<sup>s</sup> between the roller at a convey nip between the pair of folding rollers.

7. (Currently Amended) A sheet folding apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the predetermined gap formed between the pair of folding rollers is set smaller than a thickness of three sheets conveyed ~~to the nip~~.

8. (Currently Amended) A sheet folding apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the predetermined gap formed between the pair of folding rollers is set smaller than a thickness of three sheets conveyed ~~to the nip~~.

9. (Currently Amended) A sheet folding apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the single large-diameter portion has a taper section of the roller is tapered.

Cont

10. (Currently Amended) A sheet folding apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the large-diameter portion ~~of the roller includes~~ has a taper section.

A1

11. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus having image forming means for forming an image on a sheet, sheet conveying means for conveying the sheet on which the image is formed by said image forming means, and a sheet folding apparatus for folding the conveyed sheet, the sheet folding apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 10 ~~processing means for folding the conveyed sheet, including a sheet folding apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 10 as said sheet folding processing means.~~

---